

Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 111523Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3716

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS-MAN/AN PEDRO MINING RAILROAD

REF: ABIAJDN 3657

1. AS MEPD PROBABLY BY NOW AWARE LOUIS BERGER/TRANSURB HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE FEASIBILITY AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE MAN TO SAN PEDRO MINING RAILROAD. NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN NEXT WEEK ON THE FINAL CONTRACT DETAILS WHICH ARE EXPECTED COST THE GOIC SOMEWHAT MORE THAN THE 1.2 BILLION CFA FRANCS ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

2. THE DECISION CAME OUT OF THE FRIDAY JUNE 6 IVORIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND WAS APPARENTLY SHEPHERDED THROUGH BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MINES PAUL GIU DIBO. PER REFTTEL, THE DECISION WAS APPARENTLY REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BECUASE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOINGY DID NOT WANT TO BE FACED WITH A DECISION BETWEEN AMERICANS AND FRENCH ON PROPOSALS ON NEARLY EQUAL MERIT. THE DECISION ON THE BELIGIAN/ AMERICAN CONSORTIUM WAS APPARENTLY CHALLENGED BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST WHO SOMEHOW ARRANGED A

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RECONVENING OF THE COUNCIL IN WHICH THE DECISION WAS

REVIEWED AND RECONFIRMED.

3. IN OTHER DISCUSSIONS IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THE HIGH
LEVEL FRENCH VISITOR (PINAY EX-FRENCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OLD COLONIAL TERRITORIES) WHO CAME
TO PROMOTE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WITH TALK OF CONCESSIONARY
FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION HAD EMPTY POCKETS WHEN
PRESSED FOR DETAILS. A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE STATES THAT THE
FRENCH FIRM HAD THIS CONTRACT IN ITS POCKET AND LOST IT BY
THE HEAVY-HANDED APPROACH OF THE PINAY VISIT.

4. LOUIS BERGER-BAIDJAN IS OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED WITH THE
CONTRACT AND IS NOW CONTEMPLATING THE PLEASURES OF RAIL-
BED
SURVEYS DURING THE RAINY SEASON.
SMOTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABIDJA04913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750204-1230
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750658/aaaacbad.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ABIAJDN 3657
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS-MAN/AN PEDRO MINING RAILROAD
TAGS: BEXP, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006